Irrigation Efficiency Under Deficit Irrigation & On-farm Water Budgets

ESHMC 31 March/1 April 2009

B. Contor

General Agreement:

- Deficit irrigation reduces ET
- This reduction must be considered in recharge calculation or else recharge will be too low/net extraction too high
- Recharge Tool explicitly addresses chronic deficit irrigation but not acute deficits
- ESPAM2 needs a more objective and repeatable method than ad-hoc adjustment of ESPAM1.1

Greg's Questions (e-mail last week)

- 1. "Should the farm-budget calculations be performed seasonally as in the current tool... or should the farm-budget calculations be performed monthly?"
- 2. "What methodology should be used... in the farm budget calculations?"
- 3. "Should the farm budget calculations include... soil moisture storage?"
- 4. "How do mods. to the farm budget calculations relate to... return flows?"

Compare Five Approaches

- Sullivan
- ESPAM w/o adjustment for acute deficit irrigation
- ESPAM1.1 aka ESPAM(a)
- ESPAM modified aka ESPAM(b)
- Martin-Supalla adjustment to ESPAM
- Fixed irrigation efficiency

We will discuss Willem's approach later under the heading "Calculating Returns as a Residual"

Proposed Criteria

- Consistent w/ theory & literature
 - efficiency vs. adequacy
- Consistent w/ conceptual expectations
 - percolation vs. diversion depth
 - ET vs. diversion depth
- Ability to adhere to delivery schedule & budget

Summary of Literature Findings

- Efficiency & Adequacy:
 - Efficiency monotonically increases as adequacy declines
 - Theoretical upper limit of efficiency ~ 100%
 - Observed efficiencies approach theoretical

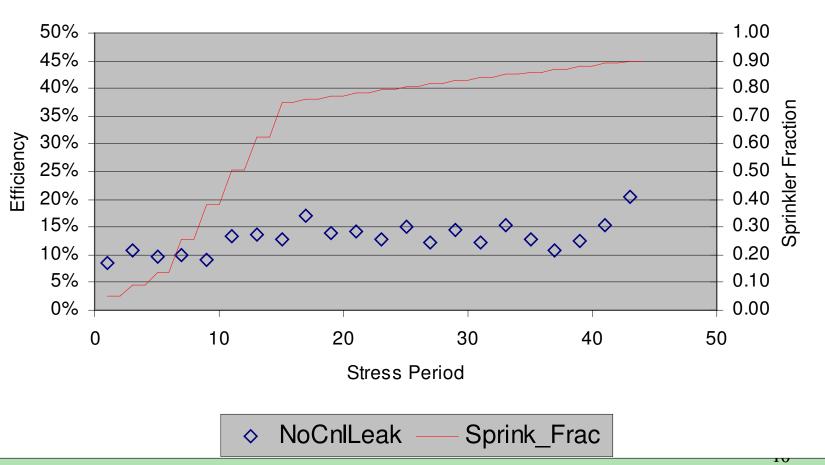
Conceptual Expectations

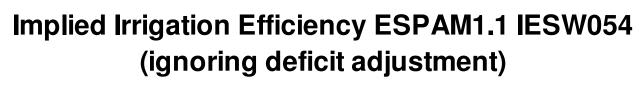
- Percolation & diversion depth:
 - zero < percolation < (diversions + ET)</pre>
 - monotonically increasing percolation w/ increasing diversion depth
- ET & diversion depth:
 - zero < ET < (diversions + precip)</p>
 - max. ET limited by available energy
 - monotonically increasing ET w/ increasing diversion depth (within reasonable range of depths)

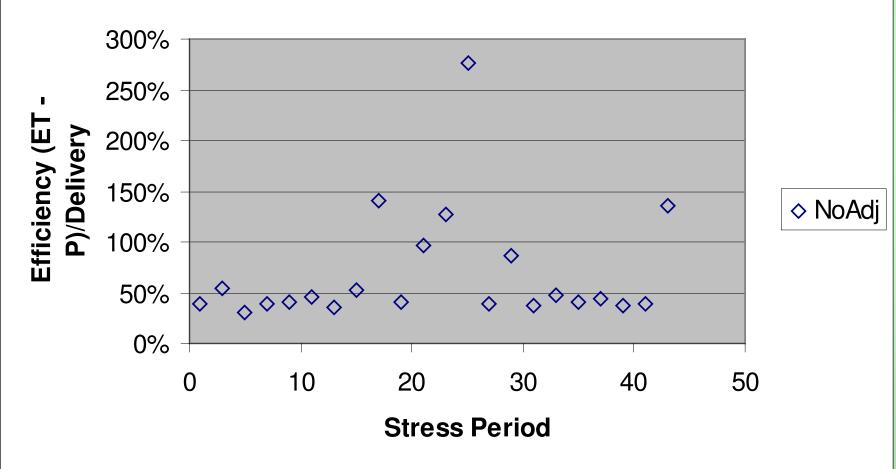
ESPAM w/o Adjustment (never used; presented for illustration)

- Recharge = (Precip + Div- Return Canal ET*Adj)
- No constraints; negative percolation is possible on SW-only parcels
- Two examples follow

Implied Irrigation Efficiency ESPAM1.1 IESW016 W/O Canal Leakage



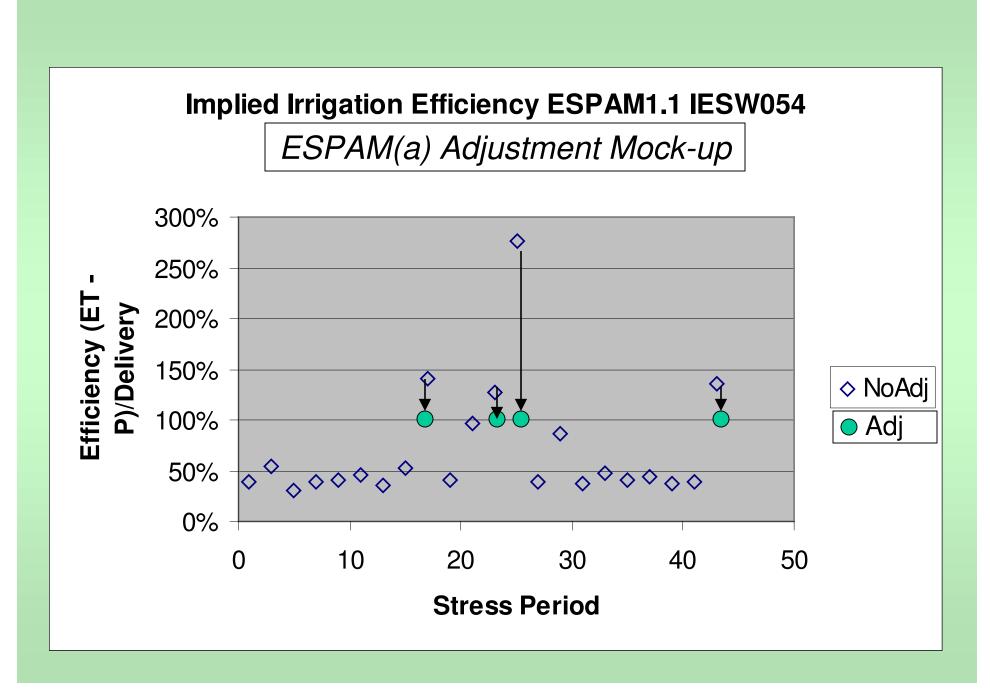




ESPAM(a) (actually used in ESPAM1.1)

- Ad-hoc adjustment where percolation appeared low
- Only applied to IESW054 in ESPAM1.1
- Could be formalized and made repeatable as

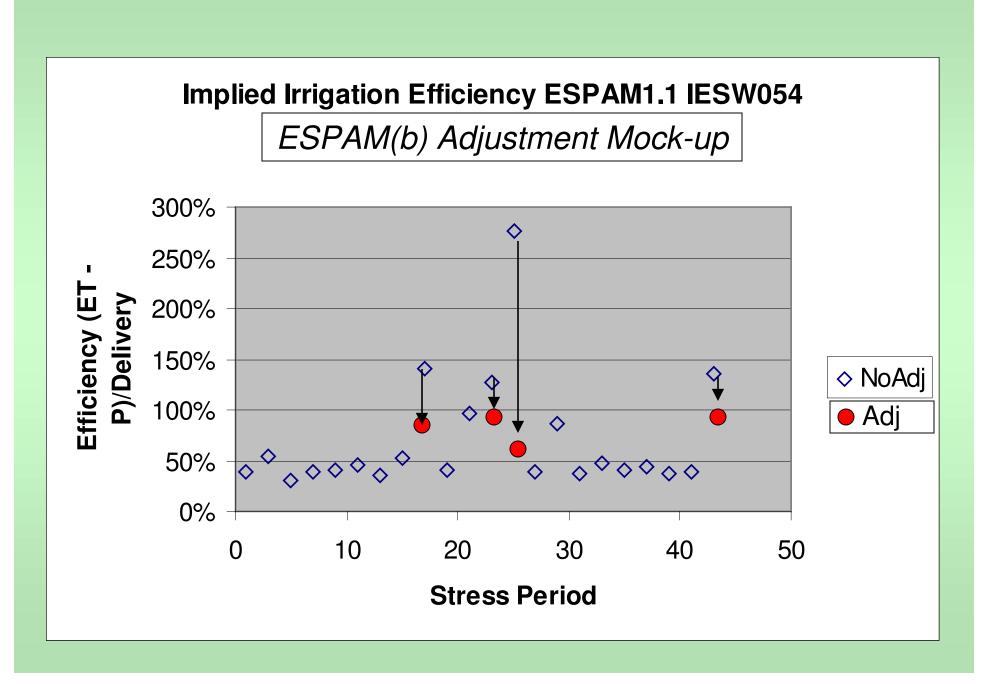
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Perc = max(zero,(NetDiv + Pcp - ET*Adj))
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ESPAM(b)

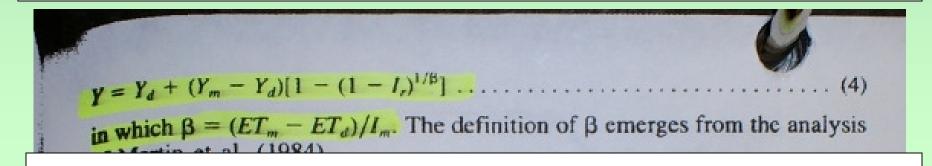
(never used; presented for illustration)

Perc = max(preset value,(NetDiv + Pcp - ET*Adj))



Martin-Supalla adjustment to ESPAM

Martin-Supalla production function



EVALUATION OF IRRIGATION PLANNING DECIONS

By Derrel L. Martin, James R. Gilley, and Raymond J. Supalla

³Prof., Agric. Econ. Dept., Univ. of Neoland.
Note. Discussion open until July 1, 1989. To extend the closing date one include Note. Discussion open until July 1, 1989. To extend the closing date one include Note. Discussion open until July 1, 1989. To extend the closing date one include Note. Discussion open until July 1, 1989. To extend the closing date one include Note. The manuscript a written request must be filed with the ASCE Manager of Journals. The manuscript a written request must be filed with the ASCE Manager of Journals. The manuscript a written request must be filed with the ASCE Manager of Journals. The manuscript a written request must be filed with the ASCE Manager of Journals. The manuscript a written request must be filed with the ASCE Manager of Journals. The manuscript a written request must be filed with the ASCE Manager of Journals. The manuscript a written request must be filed with the ASCE Manager of Journals. The manuscript a written request must be filed with the ASCE Manager of Journals. The manuscript a written request must be filed with the ASCE Manager of Journals. The manuscript a written request must be filed with the ASCE Manager of Journals. The manuscript a written request must be filed with the ASCE Manager of Journals. The manuscript a written request must be filed with the ASCE Manager of Journals. The manuscript a written request must be filed with the ASCE Manager of Journals. The manuscript a written request must be filed with the ASCE Manager of Journals. The manuscript a written request must be filed with the ASCE Manager of Journals. The manuscript a written request must be filed with the ASCE Manager of Journals. The manuscript a written request must be filed with the ASCE Manager of Journals. The manuscript a written request must be filed with the ASCE Manager of Journals. The manuscript a written request must be filed with the ASCE Manager of Journals. The manuscript must be filed with the ASCE Manager of Journals. The manuscript must be filed with the ASCE Man

An efficiency equation can be derived from the Martin-Supalla Equation

$$E = (B/A) [1 - (1-A)^{(1/B)}]$$

E = efficiency = (ET - ETd) / I

B = full-yield efficiency = (ETm - ETd) / Im

A = irrigation adequacy = (I / Im)

ETd = ET depth at dryland yield = effective precip

ETm = ET depth at full yield

I = irrigation depth

Im = irrigation depth at full yield

$E = (B/A) [1 - (1-A)^{(1/B)}]$

Efficiency depends on:

- Initial efficiency
- Adequacy

Response to adequacy is a non-linear function whose curvature depends on initial efficiency how fast depends on initial efficiency

this term
gets bigger
as adequacy
declines

Proposed Martin-Supalla Adjustment

- If Adequacy <= 1, use Martin-Supalla to define efficiency
 - ET_{red} = precip + net delivery * efficiency_{Martin-S}
 - Perc = net delivery + eff. precip ET_{red}
- Martin-Supalla undefined for Adequacy > 1
 - Assume full ET
 - Perc = net delivery + eff. precip $ET_{nominal}^* Adj$

Fixed Efficiency

- ET = Precip + (Net Div) * (efficiency)
- Percolation = (Net Div + Precip) ET

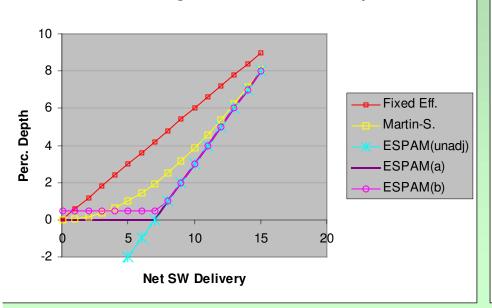
Comparison of Methods

- The value we need for model input:
 - percolation
- Indications of reasonableness:
 - ET depth
 - implied irrigation efficiency
 - (ET supplied from irrigation)/(Irrigation Applied)
 - This sometimes differs from the nominal value upon which calculations were based (for instance, Martin-Supalla achieves nominal efficiency only at exactly the full irrigation depth)

Percolation Expectations

- Should increase w/ application depth
- Lower limit: Zero
- Upper limit: Diversions + Precip

Percolation - Various Methods Assuming 40% Nominal Efficiency



Percolation - Various Methods Assuming 60% Nominal Efficiency



Percolation - Various Methods Assuming 75% Nominal Efficiency



Percolation - Various Methods Assuming 85% Nominal Efficiency



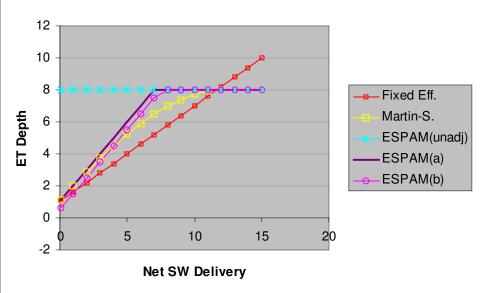
ET Expectations

- Increase w/ increasing application depth
- Lower limit: Zero
- Upper limit
 - min(diversions + precip, energy constraint)

ET - Various Methods Assuming 40% Nominal Efficiency



ET - Various Methods Assuming 60% Nominal Efficiency



ET - Various Methods Assuming 75% Nominal Efficiency



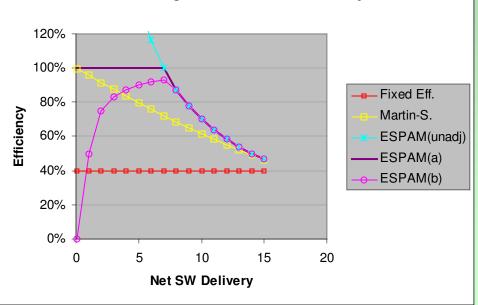
ET - Various Methods Assuming 85% Nominal Efficiency



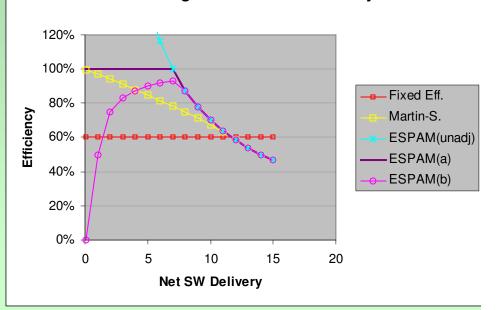
Efficiency Expectations

- Monotonically decreasing w/ increasing application depth
- Lower limit: Zero
- Upper limit: 100%

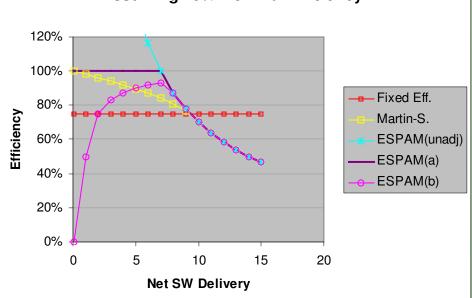
Efficiency - Various Methods Assuming 40% Nominal Efficiency



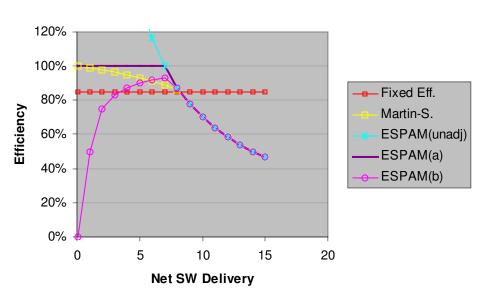
Efficiency - Various Methods Assuming 60% Nominal Efficiency



Efficiency - Various Methods Assuming 75% Nominal Efficiency



Efficiency - Various Methods Assuming 85% Nominal Efficiency



Return to Greg's Questions

- 1. "Should the farm-budget calculations be performed seasonally as in the current tool... or should the farm-budget calculations be performed monthly?"
- 2. "What methodology should be used... in the farm budget calculations?"
- 3. "Should the farm budget calculations include... soil moisture storage?"
- 4. "How do mods. to the farm budget calculations relate to... return flows?"

- 1. "Should the farm-budget calculations be performed seasonally... or... monthly?"
 - Proposal:
 - Recharge calculation: monthly, by model cell
 - note that data resolution is not nearly as fine as individual model cells
 - Global adjustment for chronic deficit irrigation: Multiple-year, by entity
 - Adjustment for acute deficits in water-short years: Single irrigation season, by entity

- 2. "What methodology should be used...?"
 - Proposal:
 - Calculate recharge using existing tools/algorithms
 - External adjustment for deficit irrigation
 - ESPAM(a)?
 - ESPAM(b)?
 - ESPAM(Martin-Supalla)?
 - Sullivan?
 - Fixed Efficiency?

• 3. "Should the farm budget calculations include... soil moisture storage?"

– Proposal:

- This is a global question affecting all fluxes across land surface, and is tied to vadose-zone storage.
- Last time we discussed this in ESHMC we agreed to postpone decision until we see if calibration points to a need
- It may be better to address it globally since it affects multiple water-budget components

- 4. "How do mods. to the farm budget calculations relate to... return flows?"
 - It depends on how adjustments are made, see proposed application to follow
 - Willem's method (to be discussed later) has the advantage of removing sensitivity to uncertainty in returns, by calculating returns as a residual

Outline of Proposed Method

- Stick w/ existing algorithms & recharge tool
- monthly calculation of recharge
- Recharge = [Div * (1-return frac) + Precip Canal
 ET * Adj] + Deficit Correction

Recharge Tool

External

(note that canal seepage is also recharge; including it is only a spatial redistribution)

Outline of Proposed Method

- Adj based on normal-year calculations and applied on long-term (multi-year) basis
- Deficit Correction based on dry-year calculations and applied on a single-season basis
- Several options are available for **Deficit Correction**

Proposed Principles for Manual Adjustment

- First make adjustments that don't change the water budget
 - canal leakage, mixed-source fraction
- If "reasonable" efficiency can't be obtained with "reasonable" adjustments, consider adjustments that do change water budget
 - ET, diversions, return fraction, extra percolation

Proposed Principles for Manual Adjustment (2)

- In each class, honor data in proportion to confidence
 - i.e. minimize variance of (ladjustmentl/uncertainty) for all components

Caution & Reality Check

- ET adjustment factors will address chronic deficit on GW-only and mixed-source lands
- We will probably not have the ability to detect acute conditions on these lands
- Any entity with large proportion of mixedsource lands will have too few data to constrain a unique efficiency calculation (see examples in backup slides)

Proposed Practical Adjustment Process - Chronic Condition

- Perform assessment on annual basis
- Chart diversions over time
- Make sure ET adjustment factors are calculated in typical diversion years
- For typical diversion years, adjust canal leakage & GW fraction to achieve:
 - W% <= in-field efficiency <= X%
 - Y% <= canal leakage <= Z%
 - A% <= GW Fraction on Mixed <= B%

Proposed Practical Adjustment Process - Chronic (2)

- If this cannot be achieved, check data:
 - Return fraction is wrong?
 - Diversions are wrong?
 - Acres are wrong?
 - Actual canal leakage higher or lower?
 - Actual efficiency very high or low?
 - deep soil, lots of alfalfa, lots of sprinklers, laserleveled border irrigation, very high pumping lifts
 - low value crops w/ low cost water

Proposed Practical Adjustment Process - Chronic (3)

- If nothing is found, manually change ET adjustment factor
 - this is easy to do
 - it only changes on-farm water budget, not rivergains water budget
- If change in ET adjustment factor has to be too severe (lold - newl > C), consider also tinkering w/ return fractions
 - this is also easy to do but it affects river gains 42

Proposed Practical Adjustment Process - Chronic (4)

- The outcome of this process will be a suite of adjustment factor, mixed-source fraction, canal leakage and return fraction that imply "reasonable" irrigation efficiency in "normal" water years, for each entity
 - Economic theory: Chronic water stress will result in abandonment of acres or acquisition of supplemental supplies; very high efficiencies will not persist except w/ high marginal cost of irrigation

Proposed Practical Adjustment Process - Acute Condition

- For years with short deliveries, calculate input needed for selected algorithm
 - ESPAM(a), Sullivan: Perc. depth
 - ESPAM(Martin-S): Adequacy
 - etc.
- Using selected algorithm, calculated needed adjustment
- Apply needed adjustments using fixed-point capability of recharge tool

Selection of Algorithm

- Any of the algorithms presented here could be adapted
 - Based on percolation depth, reject ESPAM w/o adjustment
 - Based on max ET, reject fixed efficiency
 - Based on increasing efficiency w/ increasing diversions, reject ESPAM(b)

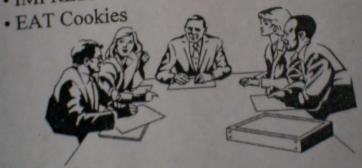
- Remaining Candidates:
 - ESPAM(a)
 Perc = max(zero,(NetDiv + Pcp ET))
 - Sullivan
 - ESPAM(Martin-Supalla)
- Input from ESHMC?

Are You Lonely? TIRED of Working on Your Own? Do You HATE Making Decisions?

HOLD A MEETING!!

You Can:

- · SEE People
- DRAW Organizational Charts
- FEEL Important
- IMPRESS Your Colleagues



ALL ON COLLEGE TIME...

MEETINGS

... the practical alternative to work

Backup Slides: Derivation

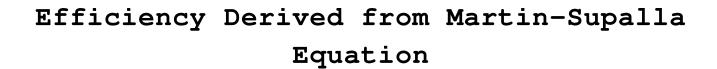
assume linear ET production function

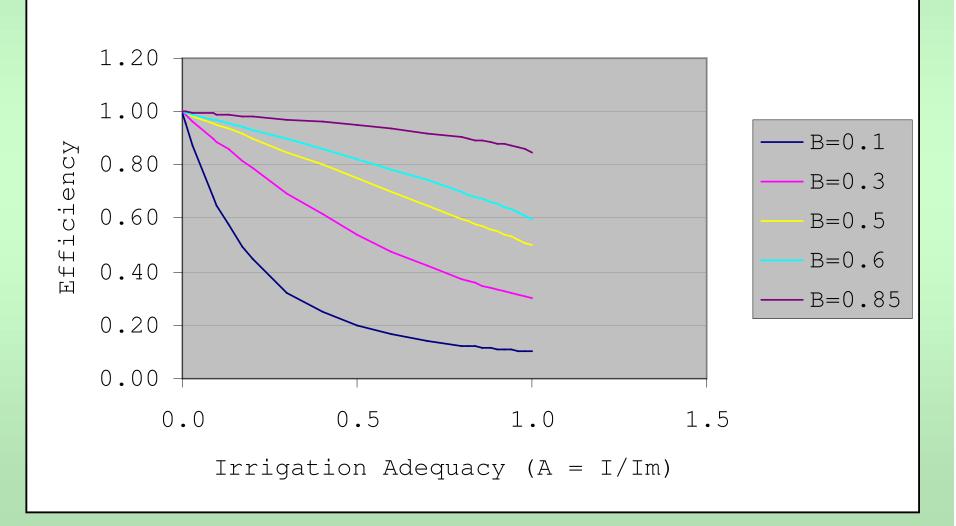
and define
$$K = Y/ET$$
 so that $Y = KET$
 $Yd = KETd$
 $Ym = KETM$
 $KET = KETM + (KETM - KETM)[1 - (1-A)(1/B)]$

Note that linear ET production function is implicit in original equation; to see this apply B = 1 (100% irrigation efficiency).

divide by K $ET = ETd + (ETm - ETd) [I - (I-A)^{(I/B)}]$ Subtract ETd from both sides of simplify $ET - ETd = (ETm - ETd) [I - (I-A)^{(I/B)}]$

rearrange demonstration of night side ET-ETd = (ETM-ETd) (Im) [1- (1-A)/3)] Substitute B = (ETm-ETd)/Im and A = (I/Im) E' = afficiency define = (ET- ETd)/I B[1-(-A)]





Backup Slides: Implications of Uncertainty in Canal Leakage & Returns

• Facts

- Diversions = 10,000
- Scanty returns datarange from 5% to 15%
- 2,500 acres SW-only
- 2,500 acres Mixed-src
- Nominal ET = 2 feet
- Effective Precipitation0.6 feet

Assumptions

- GW fraction on mixed-source is 10%
- Canal leakage is 20%
- Return fraction is 10%
- Efficiency =
 (ET Precip)/(SW depth)

Fun With Math

- Returns = 10,000 * 10% = 1,000
- Canal Leakage = 10,000 * 20% = 2,000
- Net diversion vol = 10,000 (1,000 + 2,000)= 7,000
- SW acres = 2,500 + [2,500 * (1 0.1)]= 4,750
- SW depth = 7,000 / 4,750 = 1.5 feet
- Efficiency = (2.0 0.6) / 1.5 = 93%

Fun With Math (2)

- Returns = 10,000 * 10% = 1,000
- Canal Leakage = 10,000 * 10% = 1,000
- Net diversion vol = 10,000 (1,000 + 1,000)= 8,000
- SW acres = 2,500 + [2,500 * (1 0.3)]= 4,250
- SW depth = 8,000 / 4,250 = 1.9 feet
- Efficiency = (2.0 0.6) / 1.9 = 74%

But wait, there's more!

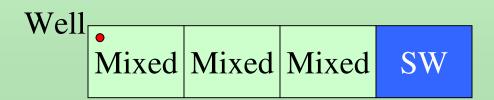
- Returns = 10,000 * 10% = 1,000
- Canal Leakage = 10,000 * 10% = 1,000
- Net diversion vol = 10,000 (1,000 + 1,000)= 8,000
- SW acres = 2,500 + [2,500 * (1 -**0.5**)]= 3,750
- SW depth = 8,000 / 3,750 = 2.1 feet
- Efficiency = (2.0 0.6) / 2.1 = 67%

We made implied efficiency range from 67% to 93% by adjusting canal seepage and GW fraction within the bounds of our knowledge. We did this without affecting net recharge or river gains.

Backup Slides: Effect on Water Budget of GW Fraction on Mixed-Source Lands

Hypothetical Facts

- 30 acres mixed-source, 10 acres SW-only
- Net SW diversions = 40 acre feet
- nominal ET = 80 acre feet = 2 feet depth
- Precip = 40 acre feet = 1 foot depth
- Limited knowledge of mixed-source lands
- No data on GW pumpage



Three Algorithms Considered

- No adjustment
- Adjust ET to honor efficiency constraint
- Adjust net diversions to honor efficiency constraint
 - adjust gross diversions, or;
 - adjust return-flow fraction

I. No Adjustment for Irr. Efficiency

- Diversion depth = (Div Vol) / (SW Acres + Mixed (1-frac))
- SW-only Recharge =
 Acres * (Div + Precip ET)
- SW on mixed-source =

 (Acres * (1-frac)) * (Div + Precip ET)
- GW on mixed-source =

 (Acres * frac) * (Precip ET)
- Implied Efficiency =
 (Precip ET) / (Diversion Depth)

Assume 90% GW on mixed-source parcels

- SW depth = (40 acre ft) / (30 * 0.1 + 10)= 3.08 feet
- SW-only 10(3.08 + 1 2) = 20.8
- SW on mixed 30 (0.1) (3.08 + 1.2) = 6.2
- GW on mixed 30 (0.9) (1-2) = -27
- Implied efficiency (2 1) / 3.08 = 32%

Net Recharge Zero

Assume 50% GW on mixed-source parcels

- SW depth = (40 acre ft) / (30 * 0.5 + 10)= 1.6 feet
- SW-only 10(1.6 + 1 2) = 6
- SW on mixed 30 (0.5) (1.6 + 1.2) = 9
- GW on mixed 30 (0.5) (1-2) = -15
- Implied efficiency (2 1) / 1.6 = 63%

Net Recharge Zero

Assume 10% GW on mixed-source parcels

- SW depth = (40 acre ft) / (30 * 0.9 + 10)= 1.08 feet
- SW-only 10(1.08 + 1 2) = 0.8
- SW on mixed 30 (0.9) (1.08 + 1 2) = 2.2
- GW on mixed 30 (0.1) (1-2) = -3
- Implied efficiency (2 1) / 1.08 ≠ 93%

Net Recharge Zero

Implications

- Assignment of GW fraction does not affect water budget
 - spatial distribution within the entity is affected
 - precise knowledge of fraction is not needed
- Water budget depends on correct Diversions, Returns and ET

IIa. Constrain ET by Irr. Efficiency

- Assume 70% irr. efficiency
- Adjust ET as needed to honor constraint
 ET = (Div * Efficiency) + Precip

Assume 90% GW on mixed-source parcels

- SW depth = (40 acre ft) / (30 * 0.1 + 10)= 3.08 feet
- (3.08 * 0.7) + 1 = 3.16 ft ET = 158% of nominal
- SW-only 10(3.08 + 1 3.16) = 9.2
- SW on mixed 30 (0.1) (3.08 + 1 3.16) = 2.8
- GW on mixed 30 (0.9) (1-3.16) = -58

Net Recharge -46

Assume 50% GW on mixed-source parcels

- SW depth = (40 acre ft) / (30 * 0.5 + 10)= 1.6 feet
- (1.6 * 0.7) + 1 = 2.12 ft ET = 106% of nominal
- SW-only 10(1.6 + 1 2.12) = 4.8
- SW on mixed 30 (0.5) (1.6 + 1 2.12) = 7.2
- GW on mixed 30 (0.5) (1-2.12) = -17

Net
Recharge
-5

Assume 10% GW on mixed-source parcels

- SW depth = (40 acre ft) / (30 * 0.9 + 10)= 1.08 feet
- (1.08 * 0.7) + 1 = 1.76 ft ET = 88% of nominal
- SW-only 10(1.08 + 1 1.76) = 3.2
- SW on mixed 30 (0.9) (1.08 + 1 1.76) = 8.6
- GW on mixed 30 (0.1) (1-1.76) = -2.3

Net Recharge +9.5

Implications

• This approach requires that when SW depth is low, users will not compensate by applying additional GW

(that is the only way you can get reduced ET on the mixed-source acres)

- ET varies significantly from nominal
- Water budget and spatial distribution are dependent on correct representation of mixed-source lands & GW fraction.

IIb. Constrain Diversions by Irr. Efficiency

- Assume 70% irr. efficiency
- Adjust Net Diversions as needed to honor constraint

Div Depth = (ET - Precip) / Efficiency Div Vol = Depth * Acres

 Net diversions can be adjusted by changing gross diversions or by changing return fraction

Assume 90% GW on mixed-source parcels

- SW diversion depth = (2 1) / 0.70 = 1.43 feet
- SW recharge = 1.43 + 1 2 = 0.43 feet
- SW only 10 * 0.43 = 4.3
- SW on mixed (30 * 0.1) * 0.43 = 1.3
- GW on mixed (30 * 0.9) * (1-2) = -27
- Implied SW Volume [10 + (30 * 0.1)] * 1.43 = 19 (vs. data of 40)

Net Recharge -21

Assume 50% GW on mixed-source parcels

- SW diversion depth = (2 1) / 0.70 = 1.43 feet
- SW recharge = 1.43 + 1 2 = 0.43 feet
- SW only 10 * 0.43 = 4.3
- SW on mixed (30 * 0.5) * 0.43 = 6.5
- GW on mixed (30 * 0.5) * (1-2) = -15
- Implied SW Volume [10 + (30 * 0.5)] * 1.43 = 36 (vs. data of 40)

Net Recharge -4.2

Assume 10% GW on mixed-source parcels

- SW diversion depth = (2 1) / 0.70 = 1.43 feet
- SW recharge = 1.43 + 1 2 = 0.43 feet
- SW only 10 * 0.43 = 4.3
- SW on mixed (30 * 0.9) * 0.43 = 11.6
- GW on mixed (30 * 0.1) * (1-2) = -3
- Implied SW Volume [10 + (30 * 0.9)] * 1.43 = 53 (vs. data of 40)

Net Recharge 13

Implications

- Net diversions vary significantly from data
- Water budget and spatial distribution are dependent on correct representation of mixed-source lands & GW fraction.





	90%	50%	10%
	GW	GW	GW
I. No Adjustment	40	40	40
	Zero	Zero	Zero
II. Adjust ET	40 -46	405	40 +9.5
II. Adjust Net Diversions	19 -21	36 -4.2	53 +13

Backup Slides: Literature Excerpts

Agricultural Water Management, 3 (1980) 53-64

Elsevier Scientific Publishing Company, Amsterdam — Printed in The Netherlands

CROP PRODUCTION FUNCTIONS AND THE ALLOCATION AND USE OF IRRIGATION WATER

J.W. HUGH BARRETT and GAYLORD V. SKOGERBOE*

Sinclair Knight and Partners Pty. Ltd. Cimanuk River Basin Development Project, P.O. Box 9 Bandung (Indonesia)

*Department of Agricultural and Chemical Engineering, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colo. 80523 (U.S.A.)

(Accepted 18 October 1979)

ABSTRACT

Barrett, J.W.H. and Skogerboe, G.V., 1980. Crop production functions and the allocation and

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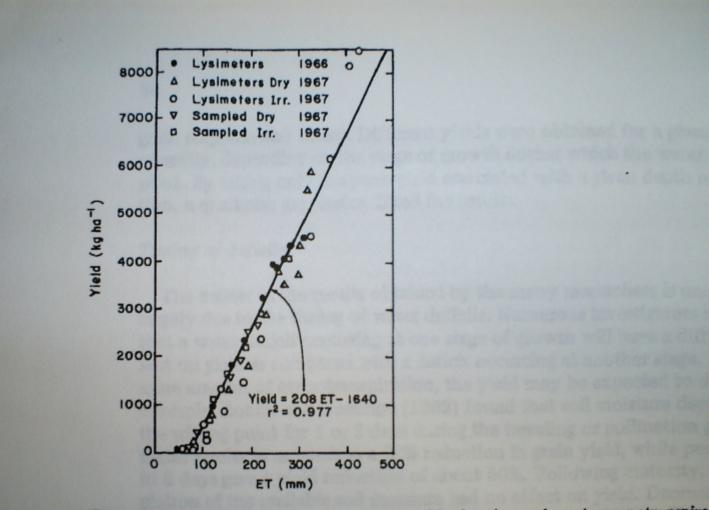
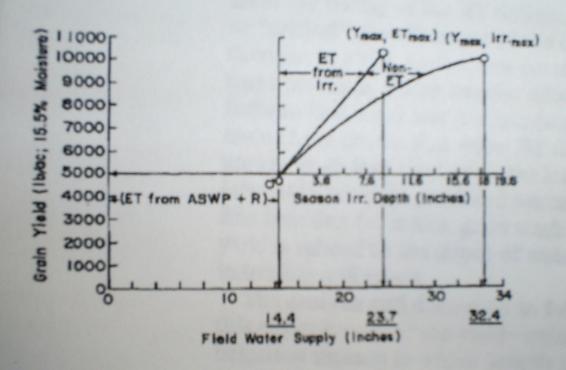


Fig.1. Relation of cumulative dry matter yield of grain sorghum to evapotranspira Hanks et al., 1969).

A linear relationship between both dry matter and grain yield and e

the curvilinear nature of the function may be due to a portion of water being unavailable for crop evapotranspiration (e.g., deep plosses).



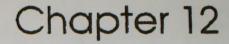
Legend:

ASWP - Depth of Available Sall Water at Planting

R . Rainfall Depth

Irr. . Water Supplied by Irrigation

FWS . Field Water Supply



Water Use Efficiency in Sustainable Agricultural Systems

E. Fereres

University of Cordoba Cordoba, Spain

F. Orgaz

Instituto de Agricultura Sostenible Scientific Research Council of Spain (CSIC), Cordoba, Spain

F.J. Villalobos

Dpt. of Agronomy, University of Cordoba Cordoba, Spain

that and dependent supplies (Louins,

Printed in International Crop Science I. 1993. Crop Science Society of America, 677 S. Segoe Rd., Madison, WI 53711, USA.

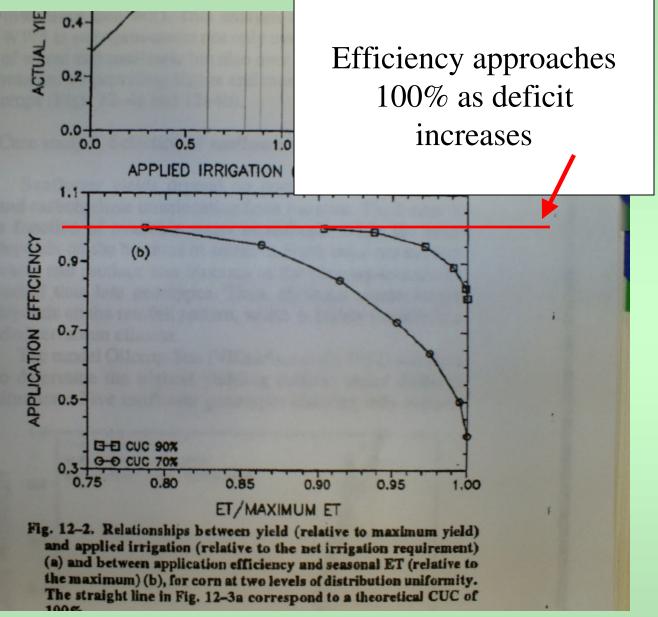
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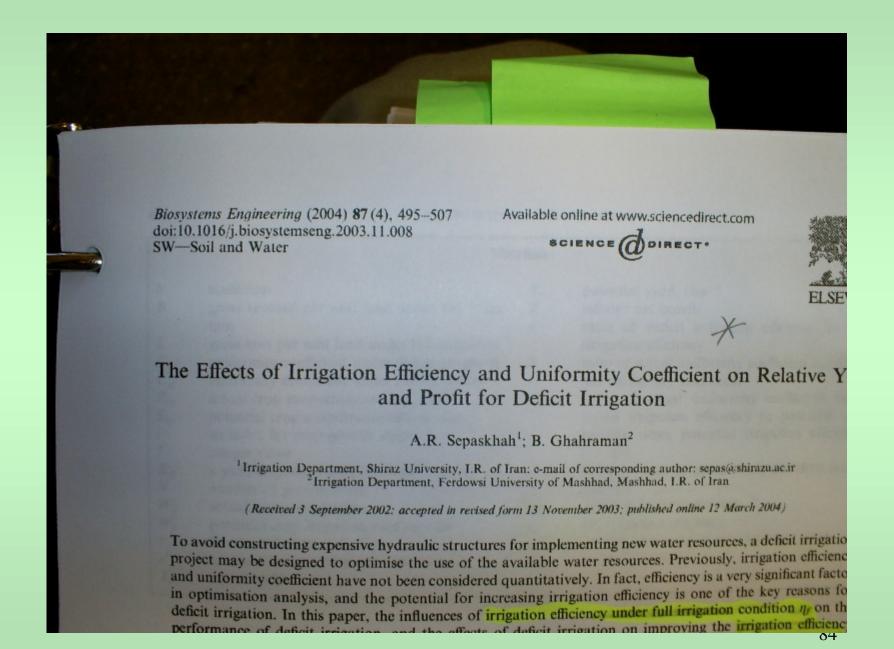
m attempts to increase g means of increasing ample opportunity for ifficient water to comi a conservative use of d farming systems.

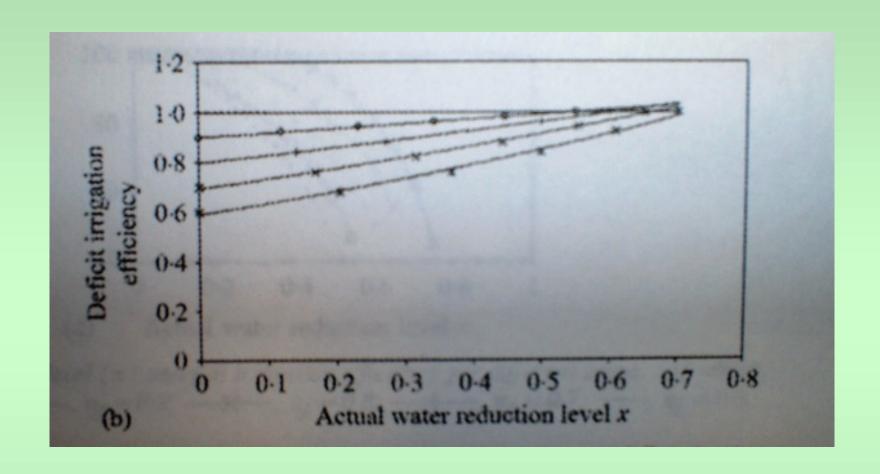
Depth of Irrigation

s of what can be stored ep percolation because cled. To evaluate the ion in irrigation, it is seen applied irrigation

yield relationship, the Hagan, 1973). The listribution uniformity picts two hypothetical corn (Zea mays L.) at ty, quantified as the CUC = 70 and 90%), at by seasonal rainfall 1% case, AIW is nearly to achieve maximum at CUC = 70%, irriga-







Different lines represent different full-irrigation efficiencies, as defined by "zero reduction" intercept on the vertical (efficiency) axis.

TECHNICAL NOTES



Measuring On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency with Chloride Tracing under Deficit Irrigation

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Abstract: Water is a limited resource in agricultural production in arid climates. Under such conditions, high irrigation efficie obtained either through implementation of efficient irrigation systems such as drip or sprinkler systems or through the age-old deficit irrigation with gravity systems. The method used to increase irrigation efficiency is often dictated by economic an factors. In either case, the effectiveness of water management at the farm level needs to be evaluated by measuring irrigation. The objective of this study was to evaluate the irrigation efficiencies for three crops in Southern New Mexico using the chloride. The chloride technique is a simple method in which the natural chloride in the irrigation water is used as a tracer to estimate the

fraction and the 180 cm at the e technique, on-fa functions and y

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Table 2. Results of Chloride Analysis for Alfalfa for 3 Years

Field	Soil type	Year	Yield (t/ha)	Relative yield	ET (estimated) (cm)	Leaching factor (%)	Irrigation efficiency (estimated) (%)
A-1	Loam	1996	20.78	0.7	172	2	98
A-1	Loam	1997	17.97	0.6	148	6	94
A-1	Loam	1998	18.0	0.6	149	4	96
A-2	Clay	1996	22.46	0.7	186	13	87
A-2	Clay	1997	20.21	0.6	167	11	89
A-2	Clay	1998	18.42	0.6	152	5	95

and ten sites were used in the evaluation. The results showed that, contrary to conventional belief, high on-farm irrigation efficiencies can be obtained using surface irrigation. Irrigation efficiencies ranged from 83 to 98%. The high irrigation efficiencies in the area were mainly due to deficit irrigation, with the exception of one field, where a high irrigation efficiency was obtained due to use of high flow turnout, laser leveled field, and irrigation scheduling. The chloride technique is subject to